



4191-02U

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Part 404

[Docket No. SSA-2012-0024]

RIN 0960-AH49

Extension of Expiration Dates for Several Body System Listings

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are extending the expiration dates of the following body systems in the Listing of Impairments (listings) in our regulations: Growth Impairment, Musculoskeletal System, Respiratory System, Cardiovascular System, Digestive System, Hematological Disorders, Skin Disorders, Neurological, and Mental Disorders. We are making no other revisions to these body system listings in this final rule. This extension will ensure that we continue to have the criteria we need to evaluate impairments in the affected body systems at step three of the sequential evaluation processes for initial claims and continuing disability reviews.

DATES: This final rule is effective on [insert date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Williams, Director, Office of Medical Listings Improvement, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 965-1020. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-

free number, 1-800-772-1213, or TTY 1-800-325-0778, or visit our Internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We use the listings in appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 of 20 CFR at the third step of the sequential evaluation process to evaluate claims filed by adults and children for benefits based on disability under the title II and title XVI programs.¹ 20 CFR 404.1520(d), 416.920(d). The listings are in two parts: Part A (adults) and Part B (children). If you are age 18 or over, we apply the listings in part A when we assess your claim. If you are under age 18, we first use the criteria in part B of the listings. If the criteria in part B do not apply, we may use the criteria in part A when those criteria give appropriate consideration to the effects of the impairment(s) in children. 20 CFR 404.1525(b), 416.925(b).

Explanation of Changes

In this final rule, we are extending the dates on which the listings for nine body systems will no longer be effective. The current expiration dates for these listing are provided in the following chart:

¹ We also use the listings in the sequential evaluation processes we use to determine whether a beneficiary's disability continues. See 20 CFR 404.1594, 416.994, and 416.994a .

| Listing | Date no longer effective unless extended or revised and promulgated again |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Growth Impairment 100.00..... | July 1, 2014. |
| Musculoskeletal System 1.00 and 101.00.... | July 1, 2014. |
| Respiratory System 3.00 and 103.00..... | April 1, 2014. |
| Cardiovascular System 4.00 and 104.00..... | October 1, 2014. |
| Digestive System 5.00 and 105.00..... | April 1, 2014. |
| Hematological Disorders 7.00 and 107.00... | January 2, 2014. |
| Skin Disorders 8.00 and 108.00..... | April 1, 2014. |
| Neurological 11.00 and 111.00..... | April 1, 2014. |
| Mental Disorders 12.00 and 112.00..... | January 2, 2014. |

We continue to revise and update the listings on a regular basis.² We intend to update the nine listings affected by this rule as quickly as possible, but may not be able to publish final rules revising these listings by the current expiration dates. Therefore, we are extending the expiration dates as listed above.

Regulatory Procedures

Justification for Final Rule

We follow the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) rulemaking procedures specified in 5 U.S.C. 553 in promulgating regulations. Section 702(a)(5) of the Social

² Since we last extended the expiration date of some of the listings in June 2010 (75 FR 33166 (2010)), we have published final rules revising the endocrine body system (76 FR 19692 (2011)) ; and proposed rules for the multiple body system (76 FR 66006 (2011)) and the vision listings in the special senses and speech body system (77 FR 7549 (2012)).

Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 902(a)(5). Generally, the APA requires that an agency provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment before issuing a final regulation. The APA provides exceptions to the notice-and-comment requirements when an agency finds there is good cause for dispensing with such procedures because they are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.

We determined that good cause exists for dispensing with the notice and public comment procedures. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). This final rule only extends the date on which several body system listings will no longer be effective. It makes no substantive changes to our rules. Our current regulations³ provide that we may extend the expiration dates, or revise and promulgate the body system listings again. Therefore, we have determined that opportunity for prior comment is unnecessary, and we are issuing this regulation as a final rule.

In addition, for the reasons cited above, we find good cause for dispensing with the 30-day delay in the effective date of this final rule. 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). We are not making any substantive changes in these body system listings. Without an extension of the expiration dates for these listings, we will not have the criteria we need to assess medical impairments in these body systems at step three of the sequential evaluation processes. We therefore find it is in the public interest to make this final rule effective on the publication date.

Executive Order 12866, as Supplemented by Executive Order 13563

³ See the first sentence of appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 of 20 CFR.

We consulted with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and determined that this final rule does not meet the requirements for a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866, as supplemented by Executive Order 13563. Therefore, OMB did not review it. We also determined that this final rule meets the plain language requirement of Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

We certify that this final rule does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it affects only individuals. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not create any new or affect any existing collections, and therefore does not require OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 96.001, Social Security-Disability Insurance; 96.002, Social Security-Retirement Insurance; 96.004, Social Security-Survivors Insurance; 96.006, Supplemental Security Income)

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 404

Administrative practice and procedure, Blind, Disability benefits, Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Social Security.

Michael J. Astrue,
Commissioner of Social Security.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, we are amending appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 of chapter III of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations as set forth below.

PART 404--FEDERAL OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE
(1950--)

Subpart P--[Amended]

1. The authority citation for subpart P of part 404 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 202, 205(a)-(b) and (d)–(h), 216(i), 221(a), (i), and (j), 222(c), 223, 225, and 702(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402, 405(a)-(b) and (d)–(h), 416(i), 421(a), (i), and (j), 422(c), 423, 425, and 902(a)(5)); sec. 211(b), Pub. L. 104–193, 110 Stat. 2105, 2189; sec. 202, Pub. L. 108–203, 118 Stat. 509 (42 U.S.C. 902 note).

2. Amend appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 by revising items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 13 of the introductory text before Part A to read as follows:

Appendix 1 to Subpart P of Part 404--Listing of Impairments

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1. Growth Impairment (100.00): July 1, 2014.

2. Musculoskeletal System (1.00 and 101.00): July 1, 2014.

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4. Respiratory System (3.00 and 103.00): April 1, 2014.

5. Cardiovascular System (4.00 and 104.00): October 1, 2014.

6. Digestive System (5.00 and 105.00): April 1, 2014.

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8. Hematological Disorders (7.00 and 107.00): January 2, 2014.

9. Skin Disorders (8.00 and 108.00): April 1, 2014.

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12. Neurological (11.00 and 111.00): April 1, 2014.

13. Mental Disorders (12.00 and 112.00): January 2, 2014.

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